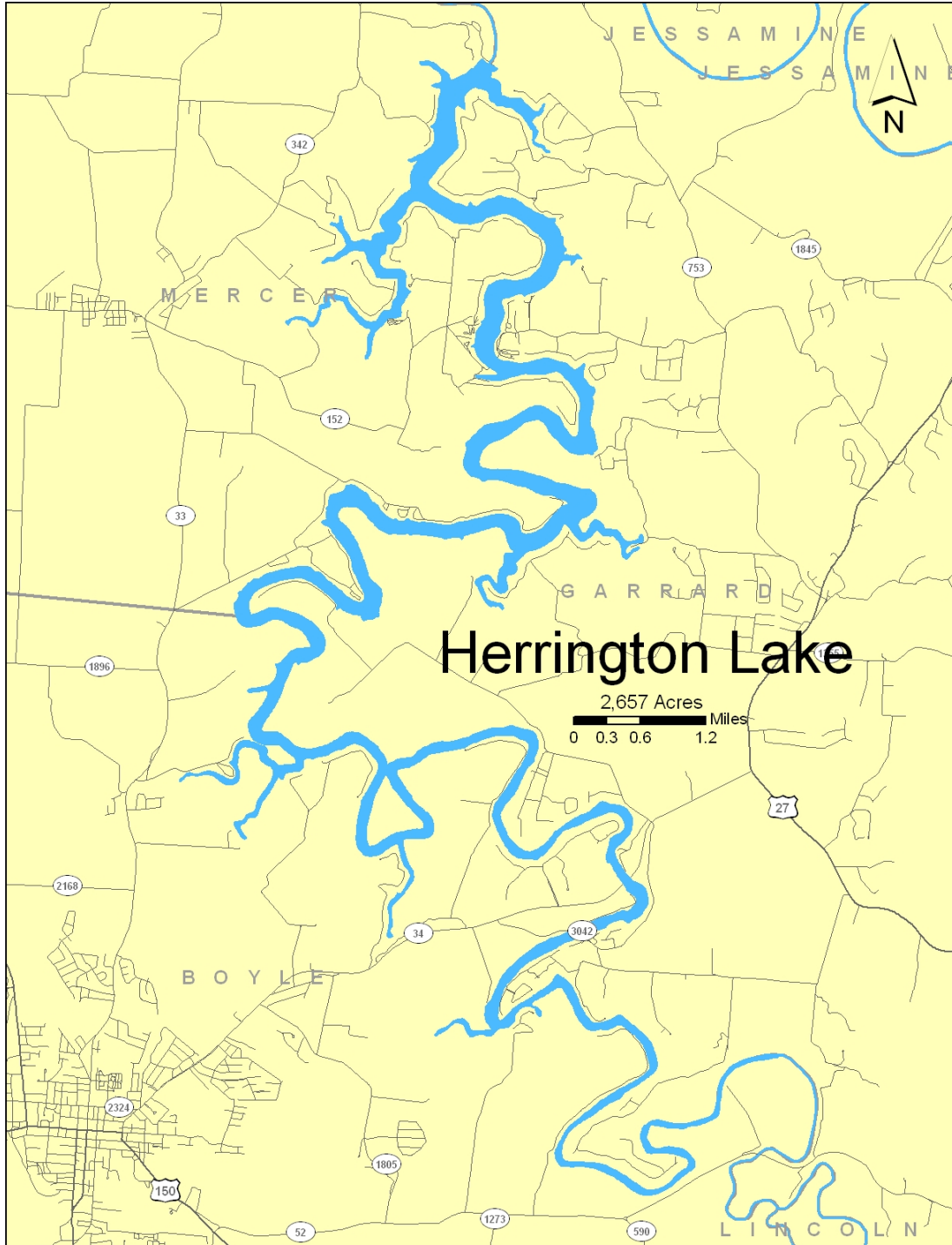


## Herrington Lake Bass Assessment 2008

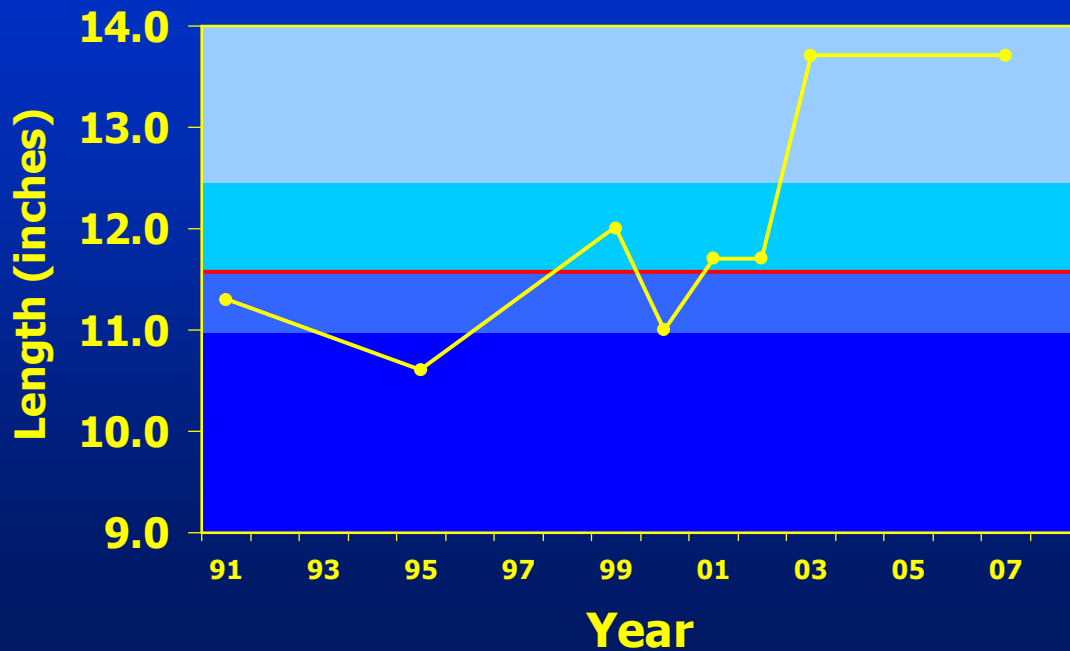
Herrington Lake is a 2,657-acre reservoir owned by Kentucky Utilities that was created through the impoundment of the Dix River in the late 1920's. The lake has a very popular bass fishery subjected to heavy fishing pressure due to its close proximity to Lexington. The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment. Please see "The Largemouth Bass Assessment" article for an explanation.



### Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

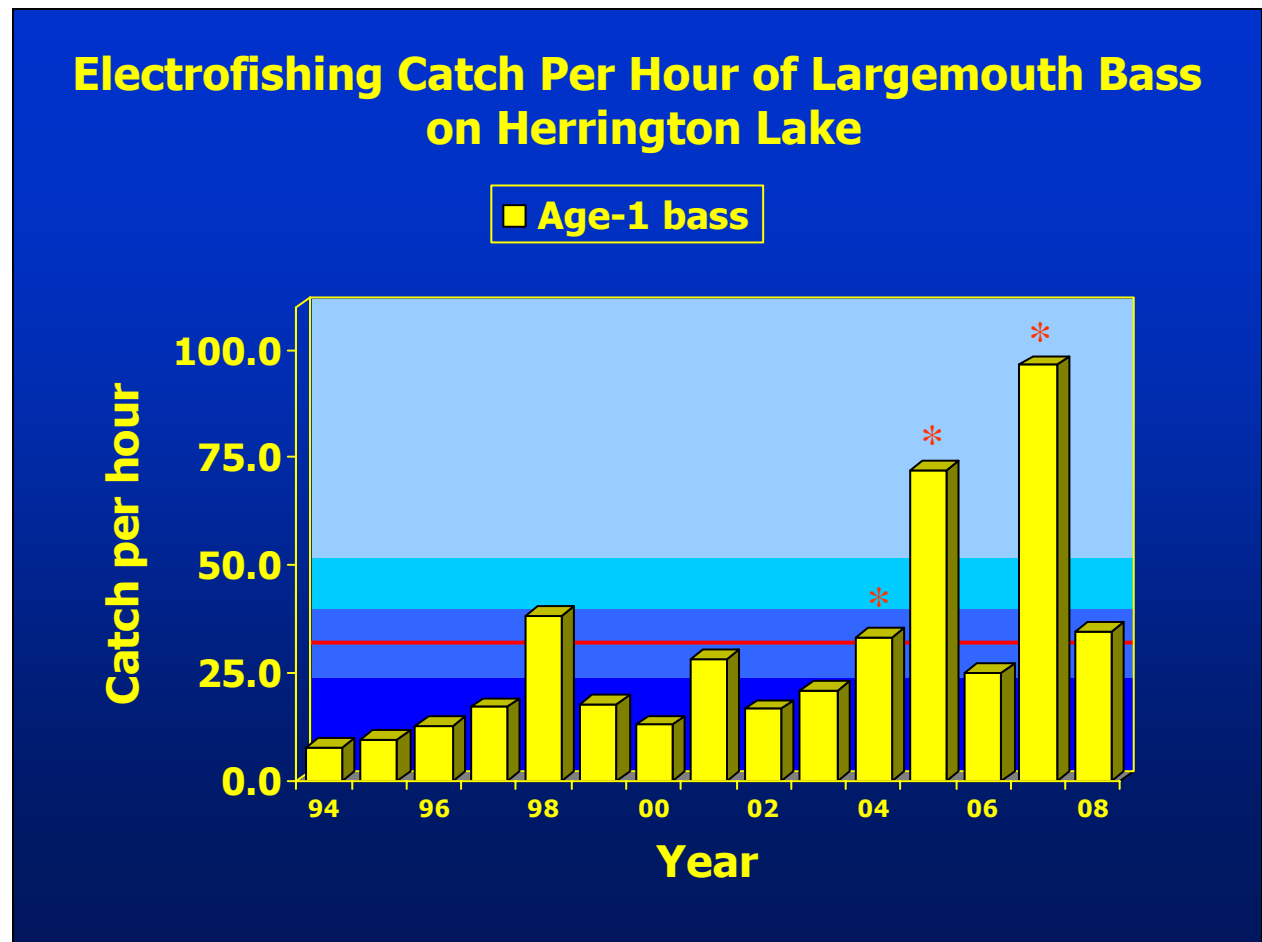
At Herrington Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged just less than 12.0 inches since 1991 and is represented by the red line. Compared to other reservoirs of a similar size, this is considered good growth. Growth rates have ranged from poor to excellent during this period and this variability is generally due to factors such as population dynamics, food resources, and weather patterns. The last year that KDFWR aged largemouth bass at the lake was 2007. At this time, growth was excellent. KDFWR biologists are planning to re-evaluate the growth rates of largemouth bass at Herrington Lake during their 2011 spring sampling.

#### Mean Length of age-3 at capture of Largemouth Bass on Herrington Lake



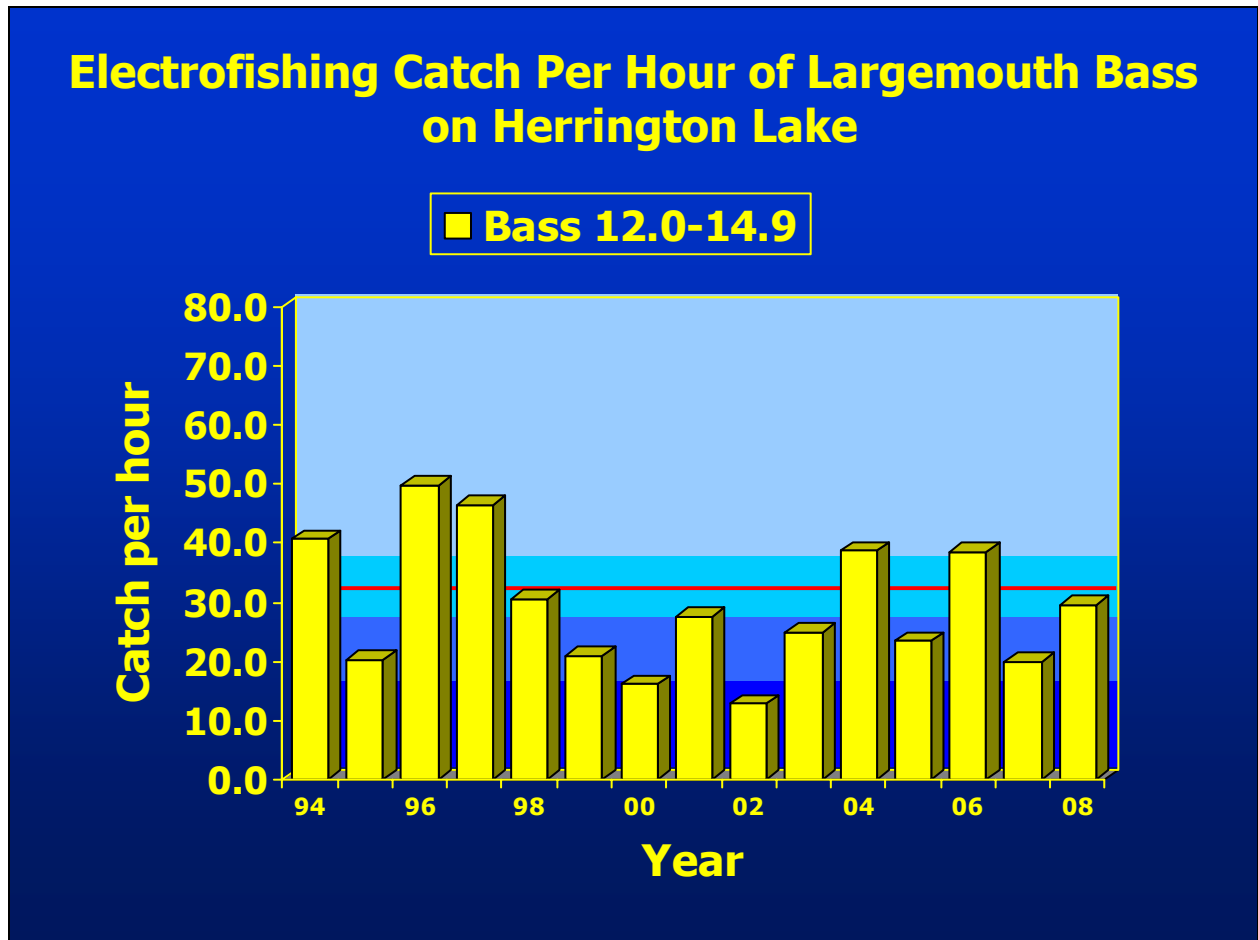
## Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass to assess the success of the spawn which occurred in the prior year. This is an important parameter because the number of age-1 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Herrington Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged just less than 30.0 bass/hour of electrofishing since 1994 as indicated by the red line. This is a fair catch rate, when compared to lakes of similar size. Recruitment (spawning success) was low during the 1990's so the department began buffering the poor reproduction by supplemental stocking of largemouth bass. The red asterisks represent years when KDFWR stocked (4.0-5.0 inch) largemouth bass. In 2007, the spring catch of age-1 largemouth bass was the highest in the past 15 years. In 2008, the spring catch of age-1 bass was still above average. This should help the bass fishing over the next several years.



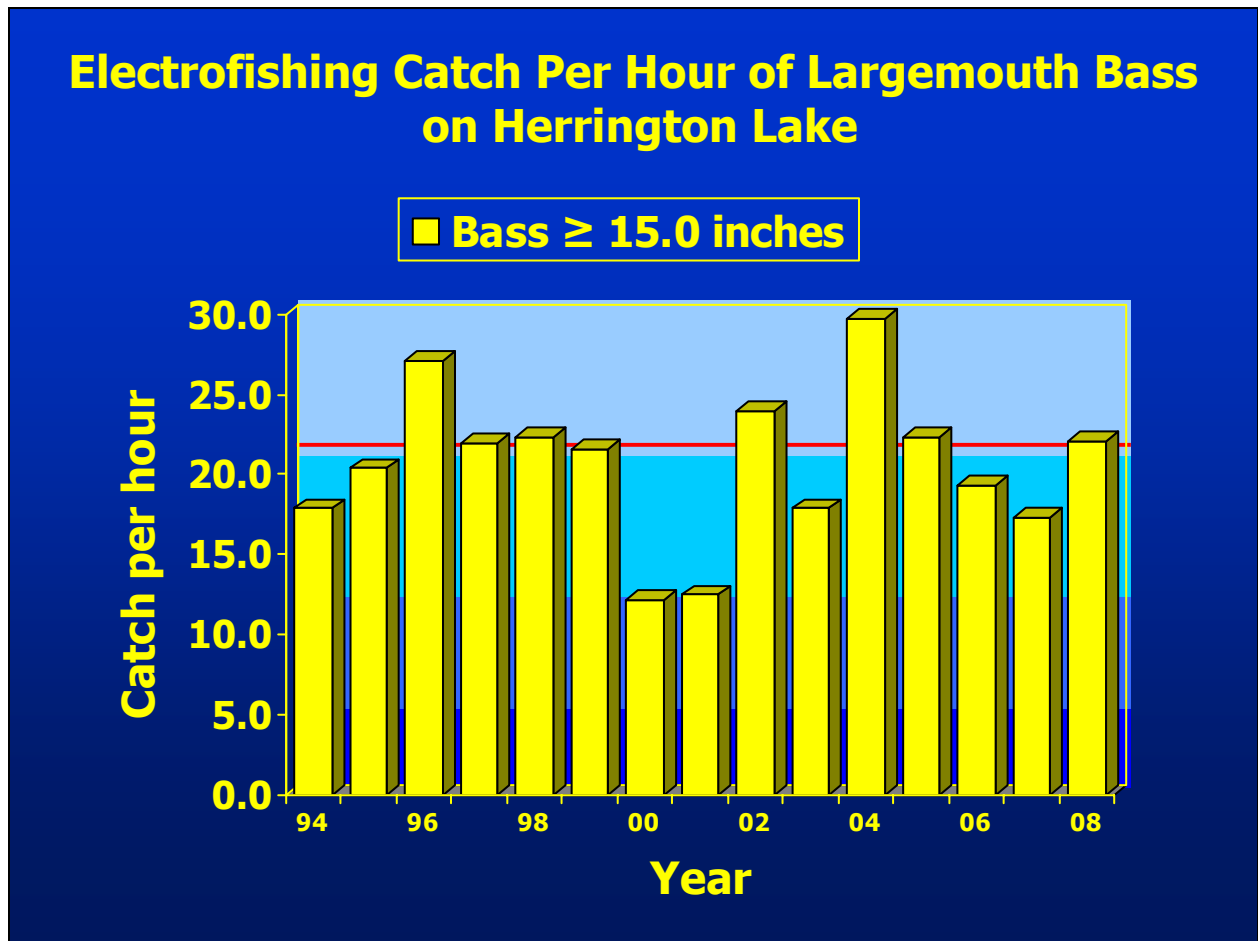
### Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged a little less than 30.0 fish/hour over the years as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is a good catch rate for this size group of bass. Over the past two years, catch rates for this size group have been below average. However, with recent improved spawning success, numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass should increase in the near future.



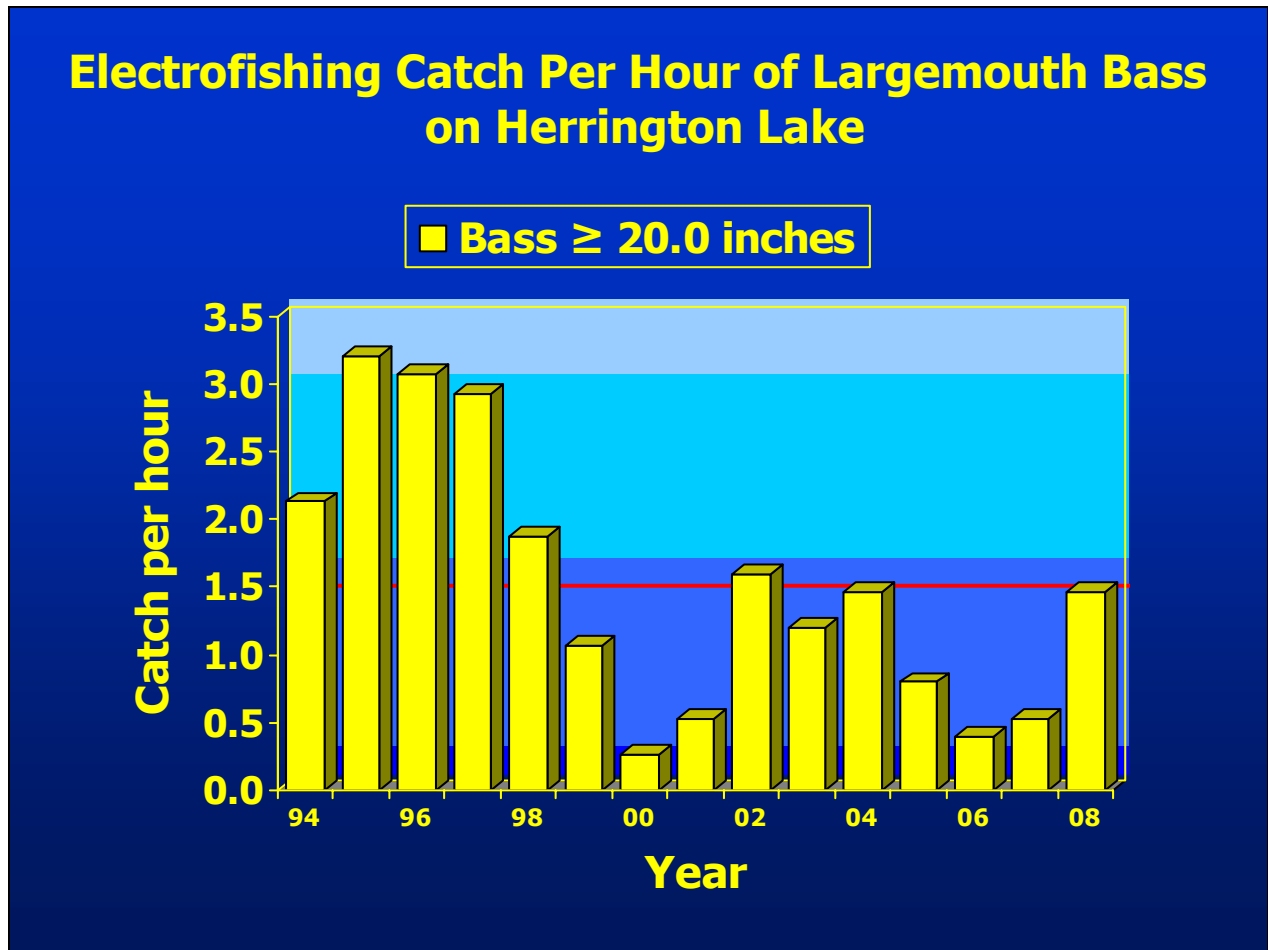
#### Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

Electrofishing catch of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged just over 20.0 fish/hour as indicated by the red line. When compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. Catch rates in 2008 were once again excellent but numbers may drop a little due to the lower catch rates of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass seen in the past two years.



## Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged about 1.5 fish/hour since 1994 as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is a fair catch rate for this size group. The catch rate of 20.0 inch and larger bass declined in the late 1990's and early 2000, but numbers have gradually improved over the past few years. These numbers are expected to remain the same or improve even more over the next few years.



### Overall – Total Assessment Score (All five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake has averaged a good rating since 1994 as indicated by the red line. The largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake has been fairly stable with only one fair rating in the last 14 years. Therefore, the future of the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake looks very promising based on this assessment.

